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Lindsay Urges 9/11 Workers, Volunteers to Get Medical Help

Free and Confidential Services Offered in Stony Brook

HAUPPAUGE, NY, APRIL 25, 2011 –Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer William J. Lindsay today urged anyone who worked on the 9/11 disaster site to take advantage of free medical checkups and care available in Stony Brook. The free care is funded for the next five years.

“This is a program that tries to partially pay back the heroic workers who put their lives at risk working at Ground Zero after the tragedy on 9/11,” said PO Lindsay. “We can never thank them enough for their efforts, efforts that cost many workers their health and cost some their lives. Offering free medical care for the health problems that resulted from their efforts at Ground Zero is the very least we can do.”

All 9/11 responders can have free, confidential and regular medical monitoring examinations. People who qualify include rescue and recovery workers, clean-up workers, anyone who performed essential restoration services, morgue personnel, and those who worked on the Fresh Kills landfill and barges. To find out whether you are eligible, call 888-702-0630.

Participants in the program are entitled to an extensive medical monitoring examination every 12 months. Services include:

- Physical examination by a doctor.
- Routine blood and urine tests (no drug or HIV testing).
- Breathing tests.
- Interview by doctor or nurse about medical history.
- Mental health questionnaire.
- Questionnaire about occupational exposures.
- Referral for treatment, if necessary.
- Advice on Workers' Compensation and other benefit programs, if necessary.

The program provides free treatment, including doctor's visits, diagnostic testing and medications for WTC-covered conditions. Here is a list of covered conditions:

Aerodigestive disorders including new onset or aggravation of pre-existing conditions for which clinical findings suggest onset is related to WTC exposure/injury including: interstitial lung diseases, chronic Respiratory Disorder –fumes/vapors, asthma, Reactive Airways Dysfunction Syndrome (RADS), WTC-exacerbated chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Chronic Cough Syndrome, upper airway hyperactivity, chronic rhinosinusitis, chronic nasopharyngitis, chronic laryngitis, Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disorder (GERD), and sleep apnea.

Mental health conditions including new onset or aggravation of pre-existing conditions for which clinical findings suggest onset is related to WTC exposure/injury are also covered, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Major Depressive Disorder, Panic Disorder, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Depression, Acute Stress Disorder, Dysthymic Disorder, Adjustment Disorder, Substance Abuse, and “V codes” (treatments not specifically related to psychiatric disorders, such as marital problems, parenting problems, etc.).

Musculoskeletal disorders including new onset or aggravation of pre-existing conditions for which careful review of symptoms or other clinical information suggests relationship to WTC exposure/injury including low back pain, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS), and other musculoskeletal disorders.

This program serves the workers and volunteers who responded to the September 11 attacks. If you did any paid work or volunteered, on or after September 11, that was directly related to the disaster, you may qualify. To find out whether you are eligible, call 888-702-0630 or download and fill out an eligibility questionnaire and fax it to 212-241-1850.

Most of the medical monitoring and treatment is provided in New York City, Long Island, and Piscataway, NJ. On Long Island, there is one treatment center in Suffolk and two in Nassau. The Suffolk location is Long Island World Trade Center Program, SUNY, Stony Brook, 1345 Motor Parkway, 1st Floor, Islandia, 11749, (631) 855-1200. In Nassau, locations are Long Island World Trade Center Program, SUNY, Stony Brook Nassau University Medical Center, 2201 Hempstead Turnpike Box 36, East Meadow, 11554, (631) 855-1200; and Long Island World Trade Center Program, SUNY, Stony Brook, 380 South Broadway, Hicksville, 11801, (631) 855-1200.

For more information about this program, call 888-702-0630 or send e-mail to wtce exams@mssm.